

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

The U.S. Standard Grants Program

The North American Wetlands

Conservation Act of 1989 provides matching grants to organizations and partnerships to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.



Accomplishments

Since 1991, some 3313 partners have been involved in 957 North American Wetlands Conservation Act projects through the U.S. Standard Grants program. The program provides grants over \$75,000 for conservation projects in all 50 states and several territories. Partners have matched grant funds more than two-to-one, tripling the impact on the ground. Funds support a wide range of conservation activities, including projects aiming to:

- protect, restore, or enhance wetland and associated upland migratory bird habitats throughout the country;



Upland Sandpiper. Credit: Dawn Scranton
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Northern shoveler. Credit: Barbara Wheeler/USFWS

- promote long-term protection of acquired habitats for birds and other wetland-dependent species;
- catalyze conservation partnerships, bringing together federal, state, non-profit, and private organizations and individuals; and
- support conservation of priority migratory bird species in the U.S., including waterfowl, shorebirds, waterbirds, and landbirds.

2014 Grants

Partner Match:
\$106,432,122

Grant Funds:
\$46,985,124



Number of Projects: **47**

The Process

Applicants submit project proposals to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation for either of the program's two funding cycles per year. Eligible proposals are presented to the North American Wetlands Conservation Council, which reviews, ranks, and recommends projects to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission for final funding approval. The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation awards and administers the approved grant projects.

Program Totals since 1991

Grant Funding: \$789,509,000

Match: \$2,053,253,000

Projects: 957

U.S. States: 50

Acres Affected: 7,861,000

Migratory Bird Conservation Commission

Honorable Sally Jewell (*Chair*),
Secretary of the Interior

Honorable Thad Cochran, Senator from
Mississippi

Honorable John Dingell, Representative
from Michigan

Honorable Mark Pryor, Senator from
Arkansas

Honorable Robert Wittman,
Representative from Virginia

Honorable Gina McCarthy, Administrator,
Environmental Protection Agency

Honorable Tom Vilsack, Secretary of
Agriculture

A. Eric Alvarez (*Secretary*), Chief, Division
of Realty, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Cormorants and other species benefit from habitat restoration. Credit: USFWS

North American Wetlands Conservation Council

Wayne MacCallum (*Chair*), Massachusetts
Division of Fisheries and Wildlife

Terry Steinwand (*Vice Chair*), North
Dakota Game and Fish Department

Dan Ashe, *Director*; U.S. Fish and Wildlife
Service

Mary Pope Hutson, Land Trust Alliance

David Nomsen, Pheasants Forever

Jeff Trandahl, National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation

Keith Ouchley (*Alternate*), The Nature
Conservancy of Louisiana

Mark Elsbree (*Ex Officio*), The
Conservation Fund

Glenn Olson (*Ex Officio*), National
Audubon Society

Sue Milburn-Hopwood (*Ex Officio*),
Canadian Wildlife Service

Jorge Maksabedian de la Roquette (*Ex Officio*), SEMARNAT-Dirección General de
Vida Silvestre, Mexico

Cyndi Perry (*Council Coordinator*), U.S.
Fish and Wildlife Service

Project Highlights

In 2014, approved projects will invest \$35.7 million in federal funds in 24 states, including:

- \$1,000,000 to protect, restore and enhance wetland habitats in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley in Arkansas. Funds will acquire 541 acres of wetlands, permanently protect 620 acres of wetlands in private ownership, and restore 600 acres of wetlands on wildlife management area. (The Nature Conservancy)

- \$565,000 to permanently protect 1,936 acres of valuable coastal wetlands within the Chenier Plain of Texas and on Trinity Bay in the Galveston Bay System. (Galveston Bay Foundation)

- \$934,000 to protect 395 acres in the Kennebec River Estuary in Maine, the northernmost migratory waterfowl concentration area in the Atlantic Flyway. (Kennebec Estuary Land Trust)

- \$1,000,000 to enhance 2,115 acres of tidal marshes and mudflats in the San Francisco Bay of California. This will provide critical foraging, roosting and nesting habitat for waterfowl, wading birds and other wildlife. (California State Coastal Conservancy)

- \$1,000,000 to protect 338 acres of wetlands and 995 acres of adjacent uplands for nesting waterfowl and other wildlife in Minnesota. (Pheasants Forever; Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources)

History

Over the past 23 years, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act has provided funds to protect and restore more than 27 million acres in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The Act was originally passed to support activities under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, an international agreement that provides a strategy for the long-term protection of wetland and associated upland habitats needed by waterfowl and other migratory birds. The Act has since expanded its scope to include the conservation of wetland-associated migratory birds listed in the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and the Partners In Flight Conservation Plans.

More Information

Please visit www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/Standard/US/ or contact David Buie, Proposal Coordinator, (703) 358-2457, David_Buie@fws.gov.

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Black Tern. Credit: Ken Sturm/USFWS